

Education, Training and Research (ETR) Associates

Training Juvenile Justice Professionals to Deliver HIV Prevention to Incarcerated Youth

Problem Overview

Risky sexual behaviors put youth in danger of contracting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV. Studies indicate that when compared to the general youth population, incarcerated youth are *more likely* to have multiple sexual partners and *less likely* to use condoms at last sexual intercourse. Adding to their risk, this population may not receive adequate information about HIV prevention because of truancy from schools, their unique educational and psychological needs, and limited institutional resources.

Program/Activity Description

ETR Associates collaborated with the National Partnership for Juvenile Services on the Survive Outside project. With funding from the CDC, Survive Outside provided free training, educational materials, and other guidance to juvenile justice staff nationwide on several evidence-based prevention interventions designed to meet the varying needs of youth in detention and correctional settings. The interventions included implementation of the *Making Proud Choices!: A Safer Sex Approach to STDs, Teen Pregnancy, and HIV Prevention* curriculum, which has demonstrated (in a prior study) decreased frequency of sexual intercourse, decreased frequency of unprotected sexual intercourse, and increased condom use among participants compared to the control group. The programs included in Survive Outside help youth

- Increase their knowledge about STDs, HIV, and pregnancy prevention.
- Learn how safer sex can help them achieve their goals.
- Gain the confidence and skills to reduce their sexual health risks.

Program/Activity Outcomes

From 2006–2011, the Survive Outside project trained 590 educators from 287 juvenile justice facilities and alternative schools in 18 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 U.S. territories to implement Survive Outside HIV prevention interventions with youth in their agencies and schools. Subsequently, more than 8,100 youth

- Received instruction in HIV risk reduction through counseling,
- Participated in discussion groups on the Bloodlines Video, which was directed and produced by HIV-positive youth, or
- Were instructed in the *Making Proud Choices!* curriculum.